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Yeovil Rural District Council

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31ST DECEMBER, 1942

Whitby, Printer, Yeovil

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

Medical Officer of Health :

D. V. HAGUE, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Secretary to Medical Officer of Health :

(Mrs) M. G. JOHNSON.

Senior Sanitary Inspector :

CHARLES A. WILSON, M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I.

Additional Sanitary Inspector :

ELFED P. JONES, M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I.

Assistant Housing Inspector :

THOMAS H. LORD.

Sanitary Inspector's Clerk :

(Mrs.) B. M. COLLINS.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILLORS OF YEOVIL RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for 1942.

Overcrowding still exists in many parts of the district. It is important that building of new houses should not long be delayed.

The year has been a healthy one. No serious epidemics have occurred, but two deaths from infectious disease have taken place, one from Diphtheria (a child whose parents had refused immunisation), the other from Cerebro Spinal Fever.

Diphtheria immunisation figures at the end of the year were as follows :—

School Children	98.0%	immunised.
Children under School Age	90.3%	,,

The incidence of Scabies and verminous conditions continues to decrease, but outbreaks still occur despite the constant vigilance of the Health Visitors and action by your Medical Officer of Health under the Scabies and Vermin Order, 1941.

The Schools are less crowded, but otherwise there is little change in conditions.

Yours faithfully,

D. V. HAGUE.

SECTION A.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

	Total.	M.	F.
Live Births—Legitimate	310	153	157
Illegitimate	21	15	6
Still Births—Legitimate	8	5	3
Illegitimate	1	Nil	1
Deaths	208	102	106

Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population ...15.9
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births ...26.4
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated average population ...10.0

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES.

	Births.	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births
No. 29 Puerperal Sepsis ...	Nil	Nil
No. 30 Other Puerperal Causes...	Nil	Nil

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS under One Year of Age.

All Infants per 1,000 Live Births	48
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births ...	45
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births ...	95
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	27
,, ,, Measles (all ages)	Nil
,, ,, Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil
,, ,, Diarrhœa (under 2 years)	1

CAUSES OF DEATH.	M.	F.
Cerebro Spinal Fever...	1	—
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	2	1
Other Tuberculosis	2	—
Diphtheria	—	1
Syphilitic Disease	1	—
Influenza	1	2
Diarrhœa (under two years)	1	—
Cancer	14	13
Diabetes	—	3
Inter-Cranial Vascular Lesions	8	15
Heart Disease	21	20
Other Circulatory Disease	9	3
Bronchitis	3	3
Pneumonia	2	3

Causes of Death—continued.	M.	F.
Other Respiratory Disease	4	2
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	3	—
Appendicitis	—	1
Other Digestive Diseases	—	3
Nephritis	6	3
Premature Birth	5	2
Congenital Malformation, Birth Injuries, Infant Dis.	1	3
Suicide	1	—
Other Violent Causes	2	1
Road Traffic Accidents	1	—
All other Causes	14	27
Total ...	102	106

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

1. Medical Officer of Health and Sanitary Inspectors } No Change.

2. (a) LABORATORY FACILITIES
   (b) AMBULANCE FACILITIES
   (c) CLINICS & TREATMENT CENTRES } No Change.

   (d) **NURSING IN THE HOME.**

   Two Health Visitors and Thirteen District Nurses attend to the Midwifery, Nursing, and Infant Welfare work in the District. The Nurses are employed by the local District Nursing Associations and supervised by the County Public Health authority.

   (e) HOSPITALS—No Change.

   (f) SICK BAYS and HOSTELS.

   149 patients were admitted to Yarn Barton Sick Bay during the year suffering from :—
   (Adult War Workers are now admitted)

Scabies	94
Impetigo...	13
Chorea	3
Tonsillitis	5
Pneumonia	2
General Debility and Malnutrition...	9

Rheumatism	1
Tachycardia	1
Conjunctivitis	3
Ringworm	1
Convalescence after Infections and Operations	8
Pyrexia	3
Ear Discharge	3
Adenitis	1
Influenza	1
Cuts and Abrasions	1

87 of the above were from Yeovil Rural District, 86 of whom were Somerset children, and 1 Somerset adult.

The following children were admitted to the three Hostels during the year :—

		From Yeovil R.D.
The Close (Infants) ...	26	14
The Nest (Boys)	20	10
Wisteria Villa (Girls) ...	33	Nil

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. WATER SUPPLIES—

Chlorination Plants have been installed in all the six main water supplies.

2. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE—No Change.

Rivers and Streams—No action taken.

3. PUBLIC CLEANSING.—Salvage work is undertaken in all Parishes.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Inspections of Sewerage and Drainage	102
Inspections for Nuisances	101
Informal Notices served	4
Drainage Tests and Inspections...	59
Rooms Disinfected	41
Dairies and Cowsheds Inspections	356
Inspection of Water Supplies	154
Slaughterhouse Inspections	15

Shops and Offices.—It was not found necessary to take any special action under the provision of the Shops Act, 1934.

Smoke Abatement.—It was not found necessary to take any action.

4. SCHOOLS.—There has been no radical improvement in the unsatisfactory condition of some of the schools in the District. Overcrowding has been much reduced.

SECTION D.

HOUSING INSPECTIONS.

1 (a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under P.H., or Housing Acts) ...	359
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	434
2 (a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under H. Con. Reg. 1925 and 1932	Nil
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	Nil
(c)	Number of houses in which no action was found necessary	Nil
3	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	Nil
4	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	6

HOUSING ACTION.

(a)	Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	6
(b)	Number of houses demolished voluntarily or in consequence of informal action	Nil

ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil

(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice :—

(a) By owners	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	Nil

Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	2
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice :—	
(a) By Owners	2
(b) By Local Authority...	Nil

Proceedings under Sections 11, 13 and 26 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil
(3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which undertaking was given not to let	Nil

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Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been made fit	Nil

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HOUSING ACT, 1936—OVERCROWDING.

(a)	(i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	30 estimated
	(ii) Number of families dwelling therein ...	70 ,,
	(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein ...	210 ,,

(b)		Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	10
(c)	(i)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	Nil
	(ii)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	Nil
(d)		Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	Nil

It was only possible to deal with a few of the very serious cases of overcrowding owing to the shortage of housing accommodation. The overcrowding in the district was reduced as the result of a large number of evacuees returning to their homes.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.

Number of Producers on the Register	427
Number of Distributors on the Register divided as follows :	
(i) Distributors only	10
(ii) Distributors who are also Producers	125
Cowsheds and Dairies inspected	356

SAMPLES OF MILK TAKEN FOR EXAMINATION.

Tuberculin Tested	89
Reported unsatisfactory	27
Accredited	178
Reported unsatisfactory	68
Pasteurised	3
For Tubercle Bacilli	39
Reported unsatisfactory	6
Total number of samples collected	309

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Number of Slaughterhouses Licensed	16

CARCASES INSPECTED.

Cows	—
Calves	—
Sheep and Lambs	—
Pigs	—

TUBERCULOSIS ONLY.

Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned :

Cows	—
Pigs	—

Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis :

Cows	—
Pigs	—

Number of Bakehouses in the District	20
Number of Offensive Trades carried on in the District	1

CANNED FOODS.

A large quantity of Canned Foods was inspected during the year, and the following condemned :

Milk	1700 Tins
Meat	79 ,,
Fish	11 ,,
Fruit	153 ,,
Vegetables and Soups ...	50 ,,

WATER SUPPLY.

Number of Samples taken for Bacteriological Examination ...	77
Number of Samples reported satisfactory	65
Number of Samples reported not entirely satisfactory ...	9
Number of Samples reported unsatisfactory	3

ADULTERATION.

The Council are not a Local Authority under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act.

SECTION F.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Most of the children in the district have now been immunised, both Somerset and evacuated children as follows :

2265 School Children	98.0%
997 Children under School age...	90.3%

No serious epidemics occurred during the year; 17 cases of Diphtheria were notified. 2 cases only were of any severity. There was one death, a child whose parents had refused innnoculation. 10 cases came from Yarn Barton Sick Bay. All were immunised children and none were really ill. The majority merely carried the germ and showed no signs of infection.

Children are still being innoculated in small numbers.

219 patients were admitted to South Petherton Isolation Hospital during the year. 74 of them were Yeovil Rural District.

Civilians	...	42
Military	...	9
Evacuees	...	23
Total ...	...	74

Disease.	Total Cases Notified	Admitted to Hospital	Hospital Deaths	Total Deaths
Diphtheria	17	17	1	1
Scarlet Fever	19	18	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever ...	1	1	1	1
Whooping Cough... ...	55	—	—	—
Measles	117	1	—	—
Erysipelas...	3	—	—	—
Pneumonia	25	7	—	—
Puerperal Fever	5	2	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	1	—	—
Acute Poliomyletis ...	2	2	—	—

The following cases of non-notifiable infectious diseases were admitted to South Petherton Hospital for special reasons, or owing to difficulty in early diagnosis.

DISEASES.

Rubella	1	Evacuee	
Mumps	9	8 Services	1 Evacuee
Tonsillitis	2		
Chicken Pox...	4		
Pemphigus	1		

Erythema	1	
Gonorrhœa	1	
Rheumatic Fever	1	
Mastoiditis	1	
Dental Abscess	1	Services
Diphtheria Contact ...	1	
Healthy Mother	1	
Healthy Baby	1	

ANALYSIS OF THE TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED.

	Under 1 yr.	1—2 yrs	2—3 yrs.	3—4 yrs.	4—5 yrs.	5—10 yrs.	10—15 yrs.	15—20 yrs.	20—35 yrs.	35—45 yrs.	45—65 yrs.	Over 65.
Diphtheria						11	4		1		1	
Scarlet Fever		2		2	2	5	4	2	2			
Puerperal Pyrexia....									4	1		
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2											
Cerebro Spinal Fever									1			
Pneumonia		1	1		1	4	4	1	4	4	3	2
Erysipelas											1	2
Whooping Cough....	4	1	5	6	7	31	1					
Measles	2	6	3	10	16	69	7	1	3			
Acute Poliomeylitis				1			1					

TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Resptratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0-1								
1-5	1				1			
5-15			2					
15-25	1	2		2				
25-35	5	2			1			
35-45	2	1				1		
45-55	1			1				
55-65								
65 and upwards ...								
Total	10	5	2	3	2	1		

Total New Cases 20. Deaths 3.

Yeovil Rural District Council.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT, 1942.

To the Chairman and Members of the Yeovil Rural District Council.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my annual report for the year 1942. All the complaints received during the year were satisfactorily dealt with.

HOUSING.

There were no new houses erected during the year.

Plans submitted for approval under the Byelaws totalled 14.

Town Planning. 12 Interim Development Permission Certificates were issued under the Town Planning Scheme.

WATER SUPPLIES.

The work of extending the water main at Thorne Cross was completed during the year.

A new water main from Chilthorne Domer to Limington was completed during the year.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The extension of the Sewer under the level crossing to the camp on Stapleton Road, Martock, was completed during the year.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

There are 16 Slaughterhouses on the register, and these have been kept clean and wholesome.

All slaughtering except Emergency Slaughtering, has been carried out outside the district under the Regional Slaughtering Scheme.

BAKEHOUSES.

There are 20 Bakehouses in the district, all of which are kept in a satisfactory condition.

COWSHEDS AND DAIRIES.

There are 62 Accredited Producers and 24 Tuberculin Tested Producers in the District.

The collection of milk samples is an important part of the work of my department, and the time and travelling involved has considerably increased.

FACTORIES.

All are in a fairly satisfactory condition.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND SALVAGE.

The scheme of Refuse and Salvage collection for the whole district is working satisfactorily. The amount of Salvage collected was the average for a Rural District.

The amount of waste materials collected during the year was as follows :

	Amount Collected.		Value.	
	Tons.	Cwts.	£	s.
Waste Paper	157	2	932	0
Metals	118	4	161	5
Textiles...	9	14	131	7
Bones	9	14	36	3
Rubber...	7	3	18	4
Jars, etc.	5	1	48	15
Total ...	306	18	£1327	14

Your obedient servant,

CHARLES A. WILSON,

Senior Sanitary Inspector,

Inspector of Meat and other Foods,

Associate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.